

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 1 of 1875.]

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## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 2nd January 1875.

The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 18th December, complains that the authorities have a fondness for constantly bringing about new changes in mofussil administration without in the least consulting the advantages of the subjects. Government appears to have a marked dislike for ancient systems and institutions, however advantageous they may be to the public; and it therefore not unfrequently happens, that the changes result in putting the people to considerable inconvenience. The editor then proceeds, in confirmation of his remarks, to refer to the following:—(1) The proposed removal of the moonsif's court from Goas to Azimgunge. (2) The inhabitants of the more distant villages are put to great trouble, from the present police outpost being located at Ahsanpore. The inefficiency of the constabulary in Furrukabad is striking. (3) Instead of obviating the little delay that used to occur in the delivery of letters in Bundhyepárá and adjacent villages, letters are not now received in less than two clear days from their despatch from the Berhampore post-office; so that matters have not been facilitated by the establishment of letter-boxes at Bundhyepárá and Gopjan. (4) The removal of the sub-registration office from Lall Bag to Baluchar has subjected the inhabitants to signal inconvenience.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATERKA,  
December 18th.

2. The same paper complains of the wretched condition of the road from Dyehátá at Khágára to Jháukholá. The repairs, begun some nine or ten months ago, have been miserably done. It is impossible for carriages as well as foot passengers to use this road.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATERKA.

3. The same paper thus writes, in the course of an editorial on the "Guicowar of Baroda":—Lord Northbrook is well versed in politics as well as morals. He is not a man to be easily swayed; if he were, Guicowar would have been by this time on the same level with Wazid Ali. He does not aspire to gain fame in England by increasing the limits of the Indian empire. He will endeavour to reform the abuses of the Baroda administration. Guicowar should count it his good fortune that Lord Northbrook is at present the Viceroy of India. If he has a grain of common sense in him, any attachment to his ancestral kingdom, and a desire to keep intact the rights of his successors, he will give heed to the counsels of the Viceroy.

MOORSHEDABAD  
PATERKA.

4. The *Burrusal Bártábáha*, of the 23rd December, complains that the new Magistrate of Backergunge does not act courteously towards his subordinates; and generally comes to the court at 9 A.M. and leaves it at 1 P.M. This occasions them considerable inconvenience.

BURRASAL  
BARTABAHA,  
December 23rd.

5. Adverting to the case of the Police Sub-Inspector, Gopal Sing, and a poor female named Rájkumarí, in which the former has been, after considerable enquiry, sentenced by the Magistrate of Jessore to two years' rigorous imprisonment, the *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 23rd December, makes the following observations:—It clearly appears, from a careful consideration of

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
December 23rd.

this case, that the police officials are constantly trying to wipe out the stains attaching to their department by concealing the faults of their subordinates. Otherwise, Rájkumári, in simply claiming the protection of the law, would not have been made to suffer the horrors of a prison. A number of similar cases impresses us with the truth of the above observation. One shudders to relate the fearful consequences that oft follow in the mofussil from this disposition of the police officials. It is the conviction of the public that, the members of every thana, from the sub-inspector down to the meanest constable, are wicked, licentious, corrupt, ignorant, and uneducated men ; and this conviction is not unfounded. But it does not necessarily follow from this, that there are no good men in the police at all. Of course, there are ; but their number being very limited, it is not strange that from an observation of the character of the majority of the officers, the public have acquired an extremely unfavorable impression with regard to the Police Department generally. Almost every gentleman hates a police officer ; this is admitted even by some of the honest officers themselves. Since such is the impression generally, it urgently behoves Government to reform the department by appointing educated men to this service, and thus endeavouring to create feelings of sympathy between the public and the police.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA,  
December 23rd.

6. The same paper, in another article on the importance of cultivating the arts and manufactures by the natives, exhorts them to attend to the subject ; and complains that the English have ruined, by their successful competition, the chief industries of the country.

GRAMBARTA  
PRAKASHIKA.

7. The same paper observes, referring to the discussion that is going on in the papers relating to the age of candidates for the Indian Civil Service Examinations, that there should be no prescribed age at all. The development of the bodily as well as the mental powers takes place in different individuals at different times.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
December 23rd.

8. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 23rd December, observes, in the course of an article on " Patriotism," that though the natives of this country cannot be said to be entirely without this virtue, long subjection to a foreign power has brought on a degeneracy of their mental powers, for the exercise of which even their present position does not afford due facilities. If, for instance, we be engaged in some patriotic undertaking which runs counter to the interests of the ruling race, a thousand obstacles will be thrown in our way, and from England to the pettiest village in India, the whole realm will be disturbed. In illustration of our remarks, we may point to the agitation that continues to be made by the merchants of Manchester to injure the newly established cloth-mills in Bombay.

BISHWA DUT,  
December 23rd.

9. The *Bishwa Dút*, of the 23rd December, thus writes in the opening paragraph of an article on the " Deplorable condition of the Sattara state" owing to the British Government having expelled the present Rajah from his ancestral palace, and reduced his allowance to one-half of what it was before :—The English Government has by its conquest of India gradually brought the native Rajahs under subjection. The powers of the latter have been curtailed, until they are reduced to mere shadows. The English have gone yet further : they have compelled the Rajahs to leave the palaces of their ancestors. The oppressions of the English Government have blotted several noble families out of existence, so that their names are no longer heard. Wealthy and respectable persons have turned beggars.

BISHWA DUT.

10. Adverting to the state of affairs in Cabul, the same paper points out, in the following words, the duty of the British Government in connection

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with them. Let our Government make the Amir clearly understand that it is well for him to release Yakub Khan from prison; otherwise he cannot expect the assistance of the English in his hour of need. In the face of the dangers that now threaten him, the Amir will not, in all probability, disregard the counsels of such a powerful nation as the English. All points of the question will be attended to in this way. In short, we will regard all who will then advocate the cause of the Amir as stains and disgraces to the world.

11. The same paper complains that oppressions still continue to exist under the English Government. As an illustration of his views, the editor refers to the sufferings of the inhabitants of a village close to the metropolis, occasioned by the lawless proceedings of a wicked character there. He gives no names.

BISHWA DUT.  
December 23rd.

12. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 24th December, in an editorial headed, "Which are the more friendly of the two—the Police or the Planters?" makes the following observations in reference to the petition of the Landholders' Association to Government, praying for enquiries into the case of Stevens, and the compliance of the Government with their prayer:—The oppressions of the indigo-planter, tea-planter, or the zemindar, will never be removed by the police, the members of which, in several instances, side with the wealthy. The poor but seldom obtain its aid, and are frequently subjected to oppression. So that until the subjects are strong enough to defend themselves, there is nothing to save them. The ryots themselves checked the indigo-planters of Bengal; and when the latter were driven out, the police, instead of helping the ryots, rather threw obstacles in their way. And if the police is now checked, the people will rather be benefited than injured. The planters are not friendly to us; they do much evil to the country; they oppress the people. But the police also does not seek our welfare. The oppressions of the planters are confined to a part of the country, those of the police extend over the whole. The former oppress with fear, the latter fearlessly. The oppressions of the former may be checked, those of the latter cannot. The former come into contact with only a limited number of persons, they can oppress but a few; but the latter are the protectors of our dignity and honor. They are the servants of a most powerful Government and most powerful magistrates. The planters succeeded in only making it difficult for agricultural classes to earn their livelihood; but under the domination of the police, our honor, courage, confidence, and pride have all been destroyed. We have become weak and imbecile. The national vitality of the Hindu and the Mahomedan races has been destroyed, and a mortal blow has been struck at our progress. The police is not friendly to us. Its downfall will benefit the country, which will inevitably be ruined by any increase of its powers. Hence it has become an urgent necessity to put down the police. Such a measure will secure us against false cases got up, and thereby procuring the imprisonment of innocent persons, only with the object of pleasing their superiors by a show of efficiency.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATEKÁ,  
December 24th.

13. The *Pracháriká*, of the 25th December, is of opinion that the Civil Appeals' Bill should not be passed, so long as the District Courts remain in their present unsatisfactory condition. The public have no confidence in them; and appeals are preferred to the High Court more with the object of securing justice than of gratifying a litigious spirit; and the need of such a law is not very clear. A wrong decision is not always rectified in the District Court—nay, in several instances, two successive courts have been found

PRACHARIKA,  
December 25th.

to pronounce an erroneous judgment. It is doubtless good to stop needless litigation, but it is improper to bar suitors from justice by enacting laws.

PRACHABIKA,  
December 25th.

14. The same paper regrets that, while the Lieutenant-Governor is endeavouring to foster the study and cultivation of arts in Bengal, Mr. Buckland, the Commissioner of Burdwan, has hastily, and without due consideration, abolished the Arts School in that place only on the advice of Mr. Hopkins.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.  
December 25th.

15. The *Education Gazette*, of the 25th December, writes the following, in the course of an article on Cabul :—It is probable that the flame kindled in central Asia by the Russians may extend even to Cabul. The defence of India will only be possible if Cabul be now successfully defended. We believe indeed that the Russians will not succeed in making the least impression on India, yet why should the fire be allowed to spread when it lies in our power to arrest its progress? Once kindled, the fire may at least, in spite of every effort to put it out, burn like a blade of grass ; but why should we allow even that? It would be well if Government were to adopt proper measures, bearing in mind the above facts. Though Russia and England are bound by ties of relationship, still that alliance cannot be relied on ; it may or, perchance, may not, influence even one generation. What is there to prevent Russia from harbouring some secret design against India, though she may now openly deny it? If she has the design, leisure and opportunities only are wanting to carry it out into action. It urgently behoves the Indian Government to put a stop to the internal troubles of Cabul, and to defend it well, even if there be no immediate danger from Russia.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

16. The same paper has a highly eulogistic editorial on the liberal policy of Lord Northbrook, as displayed in connection with the trial and the release of the supposed Nana, and the disorders in the state of Baroda. Instead of taking advantage of the misgovernment of the Guicowar to pursue the annexation policy of Lord Dalhousie, the Viceroy has endeavoured to rouse him to a sense of his duties, and has continued to act leniently towards him. He surely will be convinced by repeated acts of favour of the fact, that Lord Northbrook really seeks his welfare.

EDUCATION GAZETTE.

17. Adverting to the discussions that are going on, on the subject of the Native Press, its supposed misrepresentations of the views and motives of Government, and the remedies proposed, the same paper observes as follows :—A question may now be raised as to whether all the newspapers are in the habit of maligning the Government and the authorities? Those that are of this description are extremely stupid. They do not enjoy the confidence of the public. Errors may indeed result from a want of accurate information, and it is not improbable that hostile opinions and misrepresentations do sometimes ensue ; but in such cases there is really no ill-will at the bottom. However that may be, the general charge that all native newspapers are equally given to misrepresentations and calumny is not founded in truth. The Native as well as the English newspapers are both liable to error ; though, for obvious reasons, the liability in the case of the latter is less than that of the former. Should, however, occasion arise, the editors of the English papers also do not hesitate to condemn the Government and its laws and institutions. Illustrations are not far to seek ; the trial of Meares will supply us with abundant proof. What abuses were not poured on the Government, the High Court, justice and law, by the English journals on that occasion? Their abuses have not yet ceased. There is no doubt that the Native papers should be henceforth very careful, but it becomes the English press also to exercise caution.

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18. Adverting to the prevalence of cholera and snakes in Bákshá, Janye, and adjacent villages in the Hooghly district, a correspondent of the same paper requests Government to depute a competent assistant surgeon to the afflicted localities. The want of an able doctor is severely felt.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
December 25th.

19. The *Sáptáhik Samáchár*, of the 19th December, thus comments on the rage and disappointment of a number of Englishmen at the fact, that the prisoner at Cawnpore has not turned out to be the real Nana. A man may be both angered and grieved when his feelings of revenge are not gratified. The rage of the English is now directed towards Scindia. Some of them are found to say, that Scindia, having helped the real Nana to abscond, caused the capture of this person as the Nana; others, again, assert that Scindia has got up this false affair only to regain the fortress of Gwalior. A third party is for making that chief responsible for all the expenses Government has incurred, in connection with the trial of the Cawnpore prisoner. Have such reproaches only become at last Scindia's reward? She must doubtless have felt it extremely painful to deliver the prisoner to the English; to consign to certain death a Brahmin who had sought her protection, and to prove ungrateful to a family whom the king's ancestors had served before him. But that feeling gave way before his intense loyalty and his strong sense of duty towards the paramount power. But the merit and praise of a subject are, alas! nowhere.

SÁPTAHÍK SAMÁCHÁR  
December 19th.

20. Adverting to the wicked and perjured character of the Government pleader in the munsif's court at Serampore, who was lately, on a charge of purjury, tried and sentenced by the Joint-Magistrate of that place to three months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 50 which, however, was slightly mitigated on appeal, the same paper earnestly beseeches Government to order the dismissal of such persons from Government service and their non-appearance at courts.

SÁPTAHÍK SAMÁCHÁR.

21. The same paper directs the attention of Government to a correspondence published in the same issue and headed the "Magura Sub-division," in which the extreme familiarity of Mr. Deare, the sub-divisional officer, with the indigo-planters is referred to as having made the subjects doubtful of his justice and impartiality. Even if he prove innocent on inquiry, Government should, observes the editor, transfer him from this place, simply on the ground of the existence of such an unfavorable opinion regarding him. He has been there with few interruptions for about 17 years, and during this long period the power of the indigo-planters has been steadily increasing to the prejudice of the ryots.

SÁPTAHÍK SAMÁCHÁR.

22. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 26th December, refers to the desirability of making inquiries into the cause of the riots of the tenantry against their zemindars, that are frequently taking place in the north and east of Dacca. The latter are in a dilemma; it has become hard for them to realize from their ryots even the Government revenues. They are obliged to resort to loans, in addition to those contracted before, owing to former riots. The rebellious tenantry refuse to pay the road cess, under the impression that the zemindars themselves are responsible for it. Intriguing muktears and other designing persons go about persuading these foolish people that Lord Northbrook, on the occasion of his recent visit to Dacca, fixed the rent of every beegha of land at five annas only. The riots are not likely to be easily put down.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
December 26th.

23. The same paper, in an article headed the "Selfishness of Manchester," dwells at length on the hostility of the Manchester merchants

HINDU HITOISHINI.

towards the newly established cloth-mills of Bombay, and their endeavours to procure the abolition of the duty on imported cloth. The editor regrets that the Secretary of State, unable to disregard their importunities, and unwilling to risk his popularity, has asked the Indian Government to modify the tariff rules in their favour, forgetful of the interests of India which are entrusted to him. Manchester has ruined the industries of this country. Lord Northbrook is besought to consult the good of India before taking any decided action in this matter.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

24. The same paper, in an editorial on the fearful increase of prostitution and the unjust demand of the prostitutes for privileges from Government, as expressed in their petition to the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of his visit to Cuttack, observes that the large increase in the number of these unchaste and unprincipled females is chiefly due to the irregular laws of Government. Some rules must be framed, and some expenditure also must be incurred, if the public are to be protected from their outrages. Measures should be taken to diminish their number and allot them prescribed places of residence. They should not be allowed to live where they please. The operations of Act XIV should be extended to all parts of the country.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,  
December 27th.

25. The following is the substance of the remarks of the *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 27th December, on the University examination :—(1) Teachers should not be appointed examiners, as in this way the examinees are led to study only the individual views and commentaries of their examiner on the subjects proposed. (2) As in the Entrance Examination, text-books in English literature should not be prescribed in the F.A., and B.A., examinations also. (3) The editor regrets to hear it said, that an invidious distinction is often made between the boys of Government and other schools in the examinations. This should never be allowed.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
December 27th.

26. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 27th December, suggests, in reference to the Mitford Hospital at Dacca, that :—(1) A competent native assistant surgeon should be appointed in place of the European apothecary. A native can treat a native more efficiently than a European. (2) The salaries of the native doctors in the Mitford Hospital should be raised. They labour hard, but their remuneration is very scanty. (3) A distinction is made between Native and European patients in the Simpson's ward at Dacca; while the former are made to pay for their food and lodging, the latter receive theirs gratis.

DACCA PRAKASH.

27. The same paper observes, in reference to the inquiries that are being made by Government in connection with Stevens' case, that the consequences of this measure will only be, that the police will not henceforth disturb the Europeans in the mofussil, even if they commit crimes.

SOM PRAKASH,  
December 28th.

28. In reference to the letter of a correspondent published in the *Som Prakash* of the 28th December, dwelling on the troubles of the zemindars in the present times, caused by the insubordination of their tenantry, the unsatisfactory state of the courts, the reduction of their power by law, and other grievances, the editor remarks that good and bad men are to be found both among the zemindar class as well as the tenantry. The disputes between these two classes are all due to the imperfect character of the permanent settlement, which, however, may be best removed by Government making a permanent settlement with the ryots themselves through the medium of the zemindars. Oppressions will cease to exist, and satisfaction will be given to all parties concerned, if this plan be followed.

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29. The same paper remarks that the Secretary of State has done well in refusing to grant an increase of pension to the Nawab of Moorshedabad ; the latter is extremely extravagant in his expenditure. Moreover, Government should not burden the finances by continuing the needless services of an agent, a captain, and an engineer at Moorshedabad.

SOM PRAKASH,  
December 28th.

30. The *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 29th December, directs the attention of the public and the municipality of Calcutta to the desirability and need of constructing a public boarding and lodging house in the metropolis, for the benefit of the large number of persons daily coming to it from different parts of the country.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
December 29th.

31. The *Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 17th December, advocates the claims of Babu Jagadish Nath Raya, the able native District Superintendent of Police, to be appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Calcutta Police, in case of such an appointment being made by His Honor.

SAMACHAR  
CHANDIKA,  
December 17th.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

JOHN ROBINSON,

*The 2nd January 1875.*

*Government Bengali Translator.*

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the  
2nd January 1875.*

No.	Names.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	" Uchit Baktá"	Azimgunge, Moorshedabad	Bi-monthly	25th December.
2	" Moorschedabad Patriká"	Berhampore ...	Weekly	18th ditto.
3	" Burrisal Bártábaha"	Burrisal ...	Ditto	23rd ditto.
4	" Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rájshahye	Ditto	23rd ditto.
5	" Grámbártá Prakáshiká"	Comercelly	Ditto	23rd ditto.
6	" Bishwa Dút"	Kálighát, Calcutta	Ditto	23rd ditto.
7	" Amrita Bazar Patriká"	Calcutta ...	Ditto	24th ditto.
8	" Pracháriká"	Burdwan ...	Ditto	25th ditto.
9	" Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	Ditto	25th ditto.
10	" Hindu Hitoishini"	Dacca ...	Ditto	26th ditto.
11	" Sáptáhik Samáchár"	Calcutta ...	Ditto	19th and 26th December.
12	" Howrah Hitakári"	Bethar, Howrah	Ditto	27th December.
13	" Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca ...	Ditto	27th ditto.
14	" Som Prakásh"	Chángripottáh, 24-Pergunnahs.	Ditto	28th ditto.
15	" Dút"	Calcutta ...	Ditto	28th ditto.
16	" Sulabha Samáchár"	Ditto ...	Ditto	29th ditto.
17	" Sáptáhik Sambád"	Bhowanipore, Calcutta ...	Ditto	1st January 1875.
18	" Samáchár Chandriká"	Calcutta ...	Bi-weekly	17th December.
19	" Sambád Púrnachandrodaya."	Ditto ...	Daily	24th to 31st December.
20	" Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto ...	Ditto	24th to 30th ditto.
21	" Durbin" ( <i>in Persian</i> ) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly	25th December
22	" Jám Jehán-numá" ( <i>in Persian</i> )	Ditto ...	Ditto	28th ditto.
23	" Urdu Guide" ( <i>in Urdu</i> )	Ditto ...	Ditto	26th ditto.
24	" Nádi-ul-Akhbár" ( <i>in Urdu</i> )	Monghyr ...	Bi-monthly	15th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

B. E.

